

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 2, 7-15, 18, and 19 as indicated below.

A listing of the status of all claims 1-19 in the present patent application is provided below.

1 (Currently Amended). A method for admission control of packet flows in a network, the method comprising:

initiating a flow of packets across the network;

determining ~~at least one~~ a flow rate associated with a plurality of packets entering or exiting the network;

marking at least one predetermined bit in at least one of the plurality of packets if the ~~at least one~~ flow rate is greater than a predetermined rate; and

~~controlling an admission of additional~~ the initiated flow of packets into across the network based at least in part on the marking of the at least one predetermined bit in the at least one of the plurality of packets.

2 (Currently Amended). The method according to claim 1, wherein the network comprises a plurality of network elements, and the ~~at least one~~ flow rate is determined at a first network element, where the first network element is part of an access

link of the network.

3 (Original). The method according to claim 1, where the at least one of the plurality of packets comprises at least one signaling packet.

4 (Original). The method according to claim 3, where the at least one signaling packet originates from an end terminal outside the network.

5 (Original). The method according to claim 4, where information associated with the at least one predetermined bit in the at least one signaling packet is communicated to the end terminal.

6 (Original). The method according to claim 4, where the end terminal echoes information associated with the at least one predetermined bit in the at least one signaling packet in a transmission to the network.

7 (Currently Amended). The method according to claim 1 further comprising ~~denying the admission of the additional~~ cancelling the initiated flow of packets ~~into~~ across the network if the at

least one predetermined bit in the at least one of the plurality of packets is marked.

8 (Currently Amended). The method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~admission of the additional~~ initiated flow of packets ~~into~~ across the network is controlled by an entity that controls the network.

9 (Currently Amended). The method according to claim 1, wherein the control of the initiated flow of ~~admission of the additional~~ packets across the network is based at least in part on priorities or importance of the plurality of packets and the ~~additional~~ initiated flow of packets.

10 (Currently Amended). The method according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of packets comprise real-time packets.

11 (Currently Amended). The method according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of packets comprise Internet Protocol (IP) packets.

12 (Currently Amended). The method according to claim 11, wherein the plurality of packets comprise voice over IP (VoIP)

packets.

13 (Currently Amended). The method according to claim 11, wherein the at least one predetermined bit is part of a Differentiated Services field in an IP header of the at least one of the plurality of packets.

14 (Currently Amended). The method according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined rate is based on a network bandwidth allocated for the plurality of packets.

15 (Currently Amended). The method according to claim 14, wherein the predetermined rate is raised to a value above the allocated network bandwidth for a predetermined period of time.

16 (Original). At least one signal embodied in at least one carrier wave for transmitting a computer program of instructions configured to be readable by at least one processor for instructing the at least one processor to execute a computer process for performing the method as recited in claim 1.

17 (Original). At least one processor readable carrier for storing a computer program of instructions configured to be

readable by at least one processor for instructing the at least one processor to execute a computer process for performing the method as recited in claim 1.

18 (Currently Amended). A system for admission control of packet flows, the system comprising:

at least one terminal that initiates a flow of packets across a network;

at least one network element that:

determines ~~at least one~~ a flow rate associated with a plurality of packets entering or exiting the network, and

marks at least one predetermined bit in at least one of the plurality of packets if the ~~at least one~~ flow rate is greater than a predetermined rate; and

an admission control module that controls ~~an admission of additional~~ the initiated flow of packets into across the network based at least in part on the marking of the at least one predetermined bit in the at least one of the plurality of packets.

19 (Currently Amended). A system for admission control of packet flows, the system comprising:

means for initiating a flow of packets across the network;

means for determining ~~at least one~~ a flow rate associated with a plurality of packets entering or exiting the network;

means for marking at least one predetermined bit in at least one of the plurality of packets if the ~~at least one~~ flow rate is greater than a predetermined rate; and

means for controlling ~~an admission of additional~~ the initiated flow of packets ~~into~~ across the network based at least in part on the marking of the at least one predetermined bit in the at least one of the plurality of packets.